

ACRIMONY



Reporting on the Alternative, Gothic, and Paranormal Scenes

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Details on Page 2

The Modern Day Speakeasy



by **CT Thompson**
ctthompson@acrimony.org

When most people hear the word speakeasy they think of Al Capone and prohibition. In reality however, the term can be traced to the early 1800s. To gain entrance into one of these establishments you had to *speakeasy* and then provide the name of whoever it was that sent you. Quite often speakeasies were masqueraded by legitimate businesses such as barbershops or hardware stores.

After nearly 100 years of lobbying, temperance societies finally got their way when the 18th amendment to the constitution was ratified in 1919. This amendment provided for the prohibition of alcohol. Further legislation such as the Volstead Act of 1920 provided for the enforcement of prohibition. The public was behind such legislation during the early twenties but public opinion was soon to change.

In a relatively short amount of time arrests for public drunkenness fell, overall liquor consumption dropped, and the price for bootleg alcohol skyrocketed to prices the ordinary laborer could no longer afford. During this same period there was a growing disobedience towards the law and law enforcement officials.

The speakeasy blossomed during this era. Operated and funded by organized crime,

these underground establishments met the demand of public. Illegal liquor dropped to affordable prices and newer upscale clubs opened. It was not only socially acceptable, it was socially desirable to attend one of these establishments.

The success of the speakeasy led to its eventual demise. It was soon obvious to government officials that prohibition had failed and there was no hope for its enforcement. Thirteen years after the ratification of the 18th amendment the 21st amendment was ratified repealing prohibition. The popularity of the speakeasy once again dwindled as legitimate establishments reopened and liquor prices dropped further.



Today the average speakeasy isn't as glamorous as the establishments ran eighty years ago by Al Capone. They tend to be dank and dreary and don't discriminate much in regard to age admission. Quite often anything goes and it's not uncommon to witness open illicit drug use or public sexual acts. These

Continued on page 11

To the Editor...

I sincerely enjoyed the fiction story *Shadows of the Dog*. Anyone that has lost a pet understands the trauma that can later ensue. The grief is different from that of loosing a human, but it can be just as painful. I am sure the author of that piece knows what I am talking about.

Amanda Jones

I haven't gone to Rocky Horror in over 10 years. Quite frankly, I had forgotten about it. But your article reminded me of some fond memories during my youth and I look forward to seeing the show again this weekend.

Thomas Simpson

Quit with the homo ads on my machine!!!!!!

Linda Ramsey

I assume you are referring to the advertising on the Acrimony website. Those ads are controlled by Google.com. Since Acrimony is not anti-gay, we have no intention of blocking those ads.

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There are 3 steps to getting your work in Acrimony.

- 1) E-mail your content to editor@acrimony.org or mail it to Acrimony, P.O. Box 18330, Phoenix, AZ 85005.
- 2) Include an email or written letter stating that you own all of the rights to the content and grant Acrimony the right to publish the work.
- 3) Payment for work published is handled through PayPal.com. Include in your correspondence your PayPal account name. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can sign up for free and PayPal will give you \$5 just for doing it. To sign up for PayPal go to <http://ad2.acrimony.org>

Hunter's Moon



by **Dan Shaurette**
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I've never been one to be superstitious. Granted, being a vampire hunter has made me more aware of the supernatural forces around me. I mean the only talisman that I have, if you can call it that is my silver ankh with the amethyst mount. But I certainly never put any credence to the stories about Friday the 13th. Too many horror movies in my misspent youth ruined my appreciation for the day.

I mean, come on, is some goalie-mask clad axe murderer going to come get me? Get real. I mean, even vampire movies set you up for great expectations. But I've learned the hard way that vampires follow none of Hollywood's rules.

Even still, the power that surrounds a Friday that happens to be the thirteenth day of a month should not have been underestimated. Combine the fact that it landed in October of 2000 and the power was stronger. Finally, discover that the moon was perfectly full - and I shudder to realize how foolish I was.

That October's full moon was the Hunter's Moon, hence the reason that I was out on patrol. There seems to be an almost palpable fear in the air during a Hunter's Moon. The hairs on your neck stand a little straighter. The air has an even crisper chill to it. This all adds up to making the vampires a little friskier.

While the mundane world is planning their Halloween parties and visiting Haunted houses, I find myself acutely aware of the real things that go bump in the night. I made the rounds of the graveyards in town. I rarely find any activity there, but in October, I've learned that you can never be too careful. No fresh graves, but I did notice something by the old Johnson family crypt.

With my crossbow loaded, I made my way around the rear of the aging stone and marble site. I could make out the muffled argument between two men. One sounded frightened and the other was egging him on. It sounded like they were discussing some kind of prank. I disarmed my crossbow and set it down next to a shovel near me. I decided to scare them off by pretending I was a

groundskeeper. I picked up the shovel and walked casually around the corner.

"What the hell are you guys doing here?" I shouted as I came upon them in a gruff voice. Startled, the two men snapped their heads to look at me. The younger looking man in the leather jacket started to stutter a response. The older guy wearing a black trench coat told him to shut up and asked me, "Who the hell are you?"

"I'm the groundskeeper, and you're trespassing. Who are you?" I returned.

"Groundskeeper, my ass!" he yelled. Before I knew it, he whipped out a pistol and pointed it in my direction. His movements were too fast. This guy wasn't mortal. He cocked the gun and barked, "Get out of here before I pop you, fool."

The young guy piped up, "Dude, what's with the gun? I didn't sign up for this shit."

"Shut UP," the older guy shouted back to his friend. "We're going through with the ceremony tonight and we don't need any distractions." When he turned back to face me, his eyes were glowing red and his canine teeth were extended.

Fuck, was the only thing that crossed my mind. Can never be too careful, eh? Now the only weapon I had was a shovel, and with his reflexes, I knew I wasn't going to be able to dodge his gunfire. That is, if I thought he was going to shoot. I tried to calm the vamp down, "Dude, there's no need for this. I'm just doing my job."

"You leave now, and I won't have to kill you," he demanded.

"Fair enough," I said as I put the shovel down and ran into the shadows. When I saw that they didn't follow me, I went back to the crypt and grabbed my crossbow. I loaded it and crept around the corner to find that the duo had disappeared.

I couldn't find any trace of them. I was about to go and see if they were still on the grounds when I heard a faint noise come from inside the crypt. It sounded like muffled crying. I had this image of those two up to no good inside a crypt. But when I saw that it was locked from the outside, I couldn't imagine that they could have locked themselves in.

I grabbed the shovel that I had dropped earlier and I used it to smash the rusting lock off the door. Crossbow at the ready, I pushed the iron door in. As it creaked, I started to be afraid of what I was going to find inside. It was pitch black within the crypt. It was only by the moonlight that I was able to see any shapes. I took out my lighter and flicked it to life. I was shocked to find a naked

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woman tied onto a table, blindfolded and gagged. It was also obvious by the way she was tied and the blood on her that she had been raped.

Quickly, I took the blindfold off of her and held the flame to my face so that she could see who I was. I didn't know if she saw her attacker, or not, but I wanted her to know I meant her no harm. She was definitely frightened. I told her I was going to help her and I was going to remove her gag. She didn't scream and licked her lips because they were dry and sore from the gag.

"My name is William, what's yours?" I asked as I began to burn off the ropes around her wrists, which were tied behind her head.

"Jessica... Lupinsky," she struggled with the words as she tried to catch her breath.

"Like Tara Lipinsky, the skater," I asked, trying to get her to feel at ease with me.

She started to giggle at the comparison, then choked a little and added, "Yes. I think she's beautiful."

I finally burned through the ropes binding her wrist, and she was able to sit up. As she did, she hit the moonlight. "I think you are beautiful, too." I don't know why I said it, even though it was true. She smiled a little uncomfortably, but knew it was an honest compliment. Before moving on to the other ropes, I took off my jacket and put it around her. She thanked me.

"You're most welcome. So, can you tell me what happened to you?" As I began to burn at the ropes around her legs, she began telling me about how she was kidnapped by someone she thought was her friend. Him and some old guy she never met drugged her and that was all she remembered.

I felt uncomfortable asking her, especially as I burned away the ropes from her spread eagle legs. But I needed to know more, so as the rope fell away from her left leg, I asked, "Do you remember... them harming you in any way? I'm not sure, but it looks like they raped you."

"Oh my god, no, I... I can't remember, but I do feel sore. Oh no," she began crying.

I stopped on the last rope and went over to console her. "I'm sorry. Do you mind if I ask how old you are?"

As she continued to cry, she said, "I just turned 18. Today is my birthday." That made her cry louder. At that point, I just felt compelled to hug her and give her a shoulder to cry on if she needed it. She took advantage of it and cried some more and squeezed me tight. My god, she smelled good. Her crying slowed down, and she whispered in my ear, "Thank you William".

"Bill. Bill Johnson," I told her.

She laughed, "Like the restaurant?"

I laughed, too. "Yeah. Speaking of, are you hungry?"

"Famished," she replied.

"Are you okay?"

"I am now."

I left her side to finish the ropes on her right leg. For some reason, I couldn't stop staring at her legs. I didn't dare look higher now that the moonlight was perfectly illuminating the chamber. As I finished the last rope, I could sense some strength in those legs. But I remained a gentleman. I went back to her side and helped her off the table. She said she was very sore and she appreciated the help.

"So, Bill, what are you doing here? Are you in the business of rescuing damsels in distress?"

"Let's just say I was at the right place at the right time."

She smiled and said, "I'm glad you were."

I searched the crypt to see if the men had left her clothes behind, but I could not find them. "If you like, I can take you home so you can get some clothes."

She agreed that was a good idea. I picked up my crossbow and I walked to the doorway to see if the men were anywhere nearby. When I was certain the coast was clear, I turned back to her. She looked scared again. I realized that the crossbow has that effect. I said, "It's a long story."

She nodded understanding, at least for now, and took my hand. We walked to my car and we drove to her place.

By the time we arrived at her apartment, I had told her everything about myself. Including the fact that I moonlight as a vampire hunter. While she seemed skeptical at first, I tried to explain that the older man that kidnapped her was a vampire. The younger guy, I couldn't be sure of, but I suspected he was one as well. When I reminded her that she was raped in a crypt, that helped her believe me. It also put her at ease because she knew she could trust me.

Once inside her apartment, she immediately rushed to her bathroom. I didn't need to know why, but I could imagine she needed to go. She yelled out for me to make myself at home. I shouted back, "Do you mind if I ask you some more questions?"

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by Dan Shaurette

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"Ask away," she said as she flushed. She came out of the bathroom wearing a robe and handed me my jacket. "Would you like something to drink?" she asked.

"Thanks," I said. "Yes, whatever you're having will be fine. So, how long did you know the young man?"

"Only about a month, on campus at the University. He was hitting on me after class one day. I thought he was cute, so we started dating."

"Can I ask if you two..." I started.

"Yes... I mean, it's okay. No, we didn't. In fact I'm a virgin... or was until tonight. He told me that he wanted to do something special for my birthday, my God. I can't believe I let this happen."

"This is not your fault. He did this to you. Did he ever seem aggressive?"

She handed me a drink that looked like ginger ale. I took a sip and nodded thanks for the drink. She answered, "No, in fact I thought he was very sweet. I guess it was all just a game."

"Perhaps, but maybe there's also a connection to this night."

"Because it's my birthday?"

"Yes, but more than that, it is also a full moon tonight. And, though I know I'm reaching with this, it's also Friday the 13th."

"Do you think he's some kind of psycho?"

"Well, he may be a part of a cult, a vampire cult perhaps. This could have been his initiation. They were willing to kill me to keep me away. They may have planned to kill you, too, until I spooked them off."

We both sat down on her couch. She sat close to me, and I didn't mind. "Then I owe you my life as well. How does one pay back such a debt?" While she was in the bathroom she must have put on some perfume, because she smelled incredible. It was a heavy musk, but very feminine, not masculine like musk cologne. I'd never smelled anything like it before. It was intoxicating. I wanted to kiss her. I watched as she took another drink and my heart ached as she licked her lips.

"You don't owe me anything," I said, my heart beating faster.

She leaned forward to kiss me and her robe started to open. My hand wanted to reach inside but instead I forced it to close her robe. I wanted this so much, and yet I couldn't let her do this. She didn't stop. Her lips met mine and they tasted like rum. A spicy-sweet, warm flavor that was carried not only by her lips but her tongue.



I gave in and enjoyed the kiss. She took a breath and said, "I've never done anything like this before. And I don't just want to repay you for saving me, but I want... you."

My head was spinning from her kiss, her beauty, and her perfume. Here was a naked 18 year old coed trying to seduce me. I wanted so much to take the robe off, but something inside me told me this was wrong. This girl was just raped. She was a virgin before that. Now she was drinking rum and fondling me. She knows exactly what to do to turn a man on. This doesn't add up. But, I couldn't escape her kiss.

When I did get a chance to breath, I tried to stop her. "Jessica... Jess... stop."

She began kissing my neck and I had to push her away. She looked at me like I just betrayed her. She couldn't believe I didn't want her. She got up and ran to her bathroom again, and locked the door.

I got up and ran to stop her, but had the door slammed in my face instead. "I'm sorry, Jessica. I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you. This just didn't feel right. Does this make any sense to you?"

"What's happening to me, Bill?" she cried.

"I don't know. You're confused. I think you're beautiful, but I also know you have had a terrifying night."

"Now what?" she sniffed.

"Are you hungry, still? Do you want to go get a bite to eat?" There was no answer. I prodded, "Jess, did you hear me? Are you hungry?"

"YESSsss!" she hissed with a voice that was no longer her own. The door opened up to reveal Jessica with longer hair, fingernails, and teeth. Her naked body was hunched over and she looked like... well, she looked like she was changing into a werewolf.

She ran out of her bathroom and knocked me over, onto my back. She pinned me down and immediately bit into my neck. She was too strong to push her off, and the longer she held me the weaker I got.

I was able to get one arm free, and pushed her away from my neck by choking her. She sat up and grabbed at me, which freed my other hand. I grabbed my silver ankh and shoved it in her mouth.

She screamed in pain as her mouth began to froth. She jumped back and looked more like the beauty she was than the beast that just attacked me. She howled and then started crying. Through sobs, she asked, "What's happening to me? What am I?"

I just lay there, bleeding, too weak to do anything after pushing her away. That was when I remembered, only too late, that the October Moon is also known as the Wolf Moon.



The Hunter's Moon is the first full moon to follow the Harvest Moon. The Harvest Moon is the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox. This year the Harvest Moon fell on September 10th and the Hunter's Moon on October 9th.

Andromeda



by **Michael Ramses**
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The Andromeda Galaxy or M31

In October the Andromeda galaxy moved into view for most inhabitants of the northern hemisphere. Often referred to as M31, Andromeda is the closest major galaxy to our own Milky Way. Andromeda is a spiral galaxy and it is very close to our own galaxy's shape and size.

To locate Andromeda, look to the northeast just after sunset. You will need a very dark clear sky and preferably a new moon. The galaxy looks like a dim haze of lights, larger in diameter than a full moon.

Abd-al-Rahman Al Sufi of Persia first discovered Andromeda in 964 A.D. He called Andromeda "a little cloud" and wrote about the galaxy in his book, "Book of Fixed Stars." In Europe Al Sufi's observations were not known and Simon Marius rediscovered Andromeda in 1612 with a moderate telescope.

Andromeda is one of over 30 galaxies that make up our local group. These galaxies are spread out and have approximately a 10 million light year diameter. The group's center is thought to be somewhere between the Milky Way and Andromeda. These two galaxies are by far the most massive of the local group. Their strong gravity acts upon smaller surrounding galaxies and the result is

an accumulated system of satellite galaxies.

Although Andromeda is considered to be close to our own galaxy, it is actually over 2 million light years away. Other galaxies in our local group are between 88,000 light years and 8 million lights away from the Milky Way. There are other groups of galaxies in addition to our own local group, the closest being the Virgo Cluster. This group contains over 2000 galaxies and dominates our galactic neighborhood. Most experts estimate the edge of the Virgo cluster to be at least 60 million light years away.

With the sheer size of our known universe, the possibility of life beyond our own planet is astonishing. The Milky Way alone has approximately 400 billion stars. Multiply this by the thousands if not millions of other galaxies in the universe and it's hard for any person to truly grasp the size and dimension of our universe. New planets are being found every day. It's only a matter of time before earth-like planets are discovered.



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The Ghost Hunt



by **Atreyana Star**
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Ghost hunting is becoming extremely popular. I write this for all of you aspiring ghost hunters out there who don't know where to start. You could call it Star's Ghost Hunting for Dummies™. I hope it will help some of you out there.

First things first, don't go alone. You can't do everything yourself. The human body was not equipped with eight arms. It is physically impossible for you to operate all the equipment. It is also important to remember that many times you will be in the dark. There are stupid people out there who mean to harm you. There are crazy people out there that don't know any better than harming you. This is merely a precaution for your safety. Always remember friends don't let friends ghost hunt alone.

Next, your ghost hunting group is very important. You may find that you would like to join a "club". There are many to choose from. You want to pick people who are generally in your area. It is easier to make meetings and go to outings that way. Knowledgeable people will make for a less stressful learning environment. It's a lot easier to learn what you are doing and how to use the equipment if there is someone to show you the ropes. People that are interested in the same aspect of the paranormal as you are will be a plus. There are many people out there that are, for lack of a better term, cultists. They tend to be a tad overzealous. These are the people that you want to steer clear of. Also make sure you get along with the group you choose. You will be spending a large amount of time in the dark with them. Do you really want a weirdo pumped full of adrenalin skulking around in the dark looking for ghosts with you?



Now for the big guns, equipment comes in handy. Yes that is right ladies and gentlemen, you need to have your equipment ready. This means any of the following: a camera (with lots of film and good batteries), a camcorder (please refer to instructions for camera), a flashlight (again kids, don't forget the good batteries), an EMF detector (such as <http://www.ghostweb.com/detector.html>), a thermal scanner (refer to same page), a tape recorder with external microphone, area maps, a pen and pencil (going a little old school), your id (if you do get lost we know who you are), a compass, first aid kit (ghost hunters are not immune to accidents), chalk to mark areas safely, and batteries (did I mention batteries?). Any of these items will help you to enjoy and record your adventure. Do not be overzealous yourself and bring everything. You don't want to be carrying the 40 pound pack and having to rifle through it every time you hear and odd noise.



an EMF detector

Research is your friend. Know the history and stories before you go there. Also glance over maps or layouts before hand. It doesn't hurt to know where you are going. Check the place out in the daytime. This will help you to orient yourself after dark.

Don't wear cologne or perfume. This affects the recording equipment as well as your senses. Remember both are your key to having a safe and fun learning experience.

Say no to drugs, alcohol, and food. Clouding your senses is not the way to go. Food also attracts animals and animals make strange noises in the dark. Strange noises in the dark result in false readings.

Don't partake in illegal activities. Please do not trespass. It isn't hard to ask for permission to explore a site. If you ask for permission you are more likely to get it because you are less likely to vandalize. If they say no, it's not the end of the world. There are lots of dead people stuck here on Earth. You'll be able to easily find somewhere else to go. Do not litter. How do you like feeling like you are walking through a trash can when you go for a walk at the local hiking area? How would you like picking up after inconsiderate people that just threw their waste on the ground? Please leave these areas like you found them - disturbed only by hauntings.

Have fun. Remember this is a hobby. You are supposed to enjoy your hobbies. If it were work you would be getting paid. Even if it is your job, you should enjoy what you do.

Looking for a new hobby?

Candle making is simple and fun.
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others.



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If you follow these simple guidelines your ghost hunting outings should be fun experiences for you. Make some new friends. But also be aware that even though you may be the only ghost hunters at that site on that day, some of us may need permission at a later date to go there too. Treat the property and people with respect.



GothCon: *Beating a dead horse*



by **Dan Shaurette**
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As an update for the readership that has been following the brouhaha surrounding the GothCon convention in Atlanta this Halloween weekend, I have to report that much of the fighting remained constant until the beginning of October. Suddenly, almost as if the life breath

was choked from the pro-GothCon communities, the messages stopped. Perhaps they were instead holding their collective breaths. When I visited the official site for the convention, www.GothCon.org, for updates (which were slow to make announcements before now) I found the following note from the organizer, Sarah Sieber aka Snow Elizabeth.

"Due to reasons beyond our control GothCon 2003 has been cancelled. According to the venue someone claiming to be staff called them to report the event had been cancelled. We just recently recieved a letter from them stating they had cancelled the event due to this information. We have been unable to obtain another venue and will unfortunately have to cancel the whole event. We deeply apologize for the inconvenience and all tickets and ad sales have already been refunded."

- *Snow Elizabeth*

Without blaming any one person or group, she is claiming that someone falsely cancelled the hotel's convention center out from underneath her. Whether this is true or not is irrelevant. Whether it is likely that a hotel would so easily cancel a large event without speaking directly with the hostess is moot. Personally I wouldn't deal with a hotel that would so easily make such an error, but who knows how convincing the caller was. This was but one more damaging blow to the event, which seemed pained to get entertainment booked, or at least announced, among other troubles.

In the end, it seems the event was doomed to fail. How much the "GothCon Inquisition" had to do with it being cancelled, we will also never know. The GCI's LiveJournal is still active, or at least, more active that those on the GothCon side. Members have expressed their desire to make donations to charities instead of to GothCon, so perhaps they may get some benefit after all. But no one has come out claiming victory, nor being outwardly defensive of dealing the deadly stroke.

Sarah Sieber and her staff are not the losers in this battle, nor are the charities. Those who have lost are the people who bought tickets and planned to attend. It's good that their admissions have been refunded. Sure, there will be other events, masquerade balls, concerts, etc., in Atlanta and abroad. Had the event proceeded, perhaps the attendees may have again been reminded of the history of the event. But now their plans for having a good time despite the strife and reveling in their unique identities are dead.

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Hex Signs



by **CT Thompson**
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Hex signs were originally called *Sech Circles* because the first ones included a six-pointed star in a circle. Later, they were also referred to as *Hexerie* or *Jinks*. They are usually painted in bright colors and have meaning. Red stood for emotion, yellow for love of man and the sun, green for growing things, blue for protection, white for purity, and brown for mother earth.

History

Hex signs were created by the Pennsylvania Dutch, who were actually Germans who fled to America in pursuit of the religious freedom being offered by William Penn. These symbols were painted on barns, carved into furniture, and hammered on to utensils. They were thought to bring luck, love, abundance, and ward off misfortune such as fire and lightning.

Time Line

Hex signs began to appear to Europe in the early 15th century. In the mid 17th century, they started appearing in America.

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Designs



The Unicorn Hex

Strength and courage to strive for your goals. Also represents virtue, love, faith, hope, and charity.



The Six-Pointed Love Hex

All kinds of love, and protection of them.



The Lucky Star Hex

Each color symbolizes luck in many things: Love, fortune, friendship, job, etc. Also a protection against fire.



The Distlefink Hex

Good luck, love, and happiness. Often put on new houses to insure a happy household (especially if with blue background). The tulip means faith, hope, and charity.

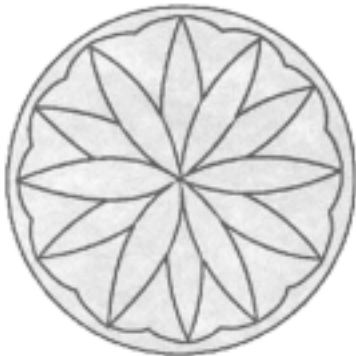
The Health Hex

Protection of your health from all disease. The various diseases are represented by different colors in the rosette.



The Oak Leaf Hex

Strength of body, mind, and character. The scalloped border represents smooth sailing in life.



The Triple Five-Pointed Star of Luck, Love, and Happiness Hex

Also strong protection against fires.



Vampire Fangs



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The Modern Day Speakeasy Continued from Cover

modern day speakeasies can't compete with legitimate establishments so they often open up when taverns close and stay open until dawn. Today they are more often called *after-hours clubs* than speakeasies.

It's been ten years since I went to an after-hours club. In 1993 I was at a club that got raided and the result was a \$150 ticket. I decided right there and then that my late night partying days had come to an end.

A few weeks ago I got a call. It was an invitation to a speakeasy where a local band I knew was playing. After careful consideration I decided to take the risk and go see the group.



Phoenix based Death Rock group DeSade

The event started at midnight. Following the directions I was given I soon ended up on Phoenix's south side in an industrial slum. The streetlights were dim. If not for the illumination of the 24-hour pornography shop across the street it would have been near pitch black. I found the location and turned my car towards the gated fence. A multi-pierced, leather-clad, intimidating large looking man stood watch. After peering into my car and giving me the once over he asked me who I was here to see. I said, "DeSade." He nodded, opened the gate, and I drove in.

Just as with speakeasies of old, this one was fronted by a legitimate business. At least it appeared that way from the outside. But once indoors it was definitely a club complete with bar, lounge seating, and a stage. I arrived a little late and DeSade was already on the stage.

I discovered DeSade in 2000. The first time I saw them live was at a New Year's Eve show later that year. They always put on a unique energetic performance. Fronted by female rocker Sarah Deathriage and backed

by guitarist John Black, the group effectively combines Death Rock, Punk, and Goth into a nice package.

Sarah often looks as if she is having stage sex with her audience during her performances. There is no doubt she enjoys to perform. She loves the attention.

John Black and Lilly Idle provide the guitar riffs. J. Grimm and Travis Edge provide the bass and drums respectively. This group has gone through a number of lineup changes over the years but as fate would have it, Grimm and Edge were founding members who found their way back to DeSade in 2001.



**John Black of
DeSade**

DeSade has a loyal local following and I spot familiar faces in the crowd. Their set is short and by 1 a.m. they are off the stage. At this point I am feeling unusually chipper. I realize the abundance of marijuana smoke in the air is having an effect on me. A pretty lady passes by offering cupcakes. I greedily take one hoping to stave off the inevitable munchies.



A few minutes later the next act takes the stage, The MadCaps. This group may be one of Phoenix's best-kept secrets. It's a three-man band (well, two men and a woman) and traditionally I don't like three-man bands. Playing lead guitar and singing vocals is usually too much for anyone to handle effectively, yet John Logan does it well. So well that he may be better suited as just lead guitarist.



The MadCaps

Christina Nunez plays bass and brings her own brand of attitude to the show. With cigarette barely hanging off the tip of her lower lip, she caresses her axe and coaxes deep pounding tones into the club. She's having a good time up there, it's easy to see.



**Christina Nunez of
The MadCaps**

Artie Cassidy rounds out the group on drums. Only later do I find out this band belongs to the dying guild of guerilla rock. In addition to their scheduled shows they regularly roll up on venues and play in the parking lot out of the back of a pickup truck. It's this dedication that has made Phoenix recognize the band.



**John Logan of
The MadCaps**

The MadCaps do a short set like the group before them and once again the stage is bare save stage handlers who prepare for the next act. I take the opportunity that the silence brings to intermingle and chat with the crowd. My eyes are now freely watering from the smoke filled club.

The final group of the evening is The Glass Heroes. This band has been around the Phoenix scene for years and their experience shows. They have real stage presence. Keith Jackson fronts the group and delivers solid vocals. Steve Shelton plays lead guitar. He is obviously constrained on the small stage, wanting to break out and gyrate if space were only available. His riffs are clean and the experience of the group again shows. The band is rounded out by Steve Davis on bass and Ad Adams on



The Glass Heroes



**Keith Jackson of
The Glass Heroes**

drums.

What makes The Glass Heroes stand out among other punk bands is that these guys can play their instruments. They prove that you don't have to compromise the quality of music in order to play punk. Their songs are well crafted and their playing stands out.

When it's all over I realize just how late it is. Wanting to be home before sunrise I say my goodbyes and head for my car. While driving off I think about my fortune in not being involved in another speakeasy raid. This is not something I would want to do every weekend, at least not anymore now that I am in my thirties, but it was a fun night. It was raw and unadulterated. For a short time I broke the rules of society and partook of bootleg liquor and inadvertently inhaled marijuana. And to top it all off I got to see and hear three great bands perform. The speakeasy lives on.

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DeSade's official webpage is:
<http://www.desadeonline.com>

The MadCap's official webpage is:
<http://www.themadcaps.net>

The Glass Heroes' official webpage is:
<http://www.glassheroes.com>

To find a speakeasy near you slip a \$20 to your local bartender and inquire.

All Photographs by CT Thompson

Untitled

About as far from redemption as I am from San Francisco
I find myself lost in the bottom of a bottle of cheap bourbon.
Downtown is silent, stained with the blood of idealists
But uptown there's still life.

Five mile to go before I sleep
Clack-clack of train tracks
Jarring consciousness to realization
That where I'm going's not home.

And two years too long hiding
Inside self from self and sick reality
The bus stops, and I walk
But where I'm going's not home
And uptown there's still life.

by **Dmitri Arbacauskas**

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<http://www.livejournal.com/users/winneganfake>

Numbers

Safety in numbers
Hordes all saying
We are special
We are different
The ones
The blessed
No one will forget us
Time will stop
For us
We will not change
What we shall become
The world will bend
Will break for us
Our flesh is strong
Together we are
Together we are
Alone I'm
Together we are

by **Richard Priest**
ring_of_pain@hotmail.com



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Revisiting the Phoenix Lights



by **Dan Shaurette**
Daniel@acrimony.org
www.ShauretteNet.com

On this particular Thursday, something was moving quietly through the ionosphere many miles above the surface of the planet; several somethings in fact, several dozen huge yellow chunky slablike somethings, huge as office buildings, silent as birds.

- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Douglas Adams

In March of 1997, the Hale-Bopp comet made its closest pass by Earth and was visible to the naked eye for most of the month. It was an expected and brilliant astronomical phenomenon, one that won't be seen again for another 3,000 years. Many amateur astronomers, and regular folks with telescopes, were eagerly scanning the skies hoping to catch a glimpse after the sun set.

But on one particular Thursday, March 13, 1997 to be exact, something else was spotted in the night sky above Phoenix, Arizona. Not by one or two folks, but by hundreds of witnesses, some with video cameras. Just around 10 PM, about nine bright orbs of light appeared in a "V"-shaped formation above the mountains south of Phoenix, hovered for a while, and then disappeared southward. This was only one of an amazing collection of sightings that progressed throughout the evening, from Las Vegas, Nevada to Tucson, Arizona.

Local TV stations, authorities and air force bases were deluged with calls from all over the valley as people called panicked by what they had seen. When the TV stations aired the amateur video of the orbs, more calls came in -- not just because of that incredible sighting, but because of sightings made earlier in the evening, all over Arizona. Once seen on the air, the phenomenon was given a name, *The Phoenix Lights*. It would become one of the largest recorded sightings in American UFO history, garnering even international coverage and investigation.

At approximately 7:55 PM Arizona time, a gentleman from Henderson, NV, called in the first sighting, reporting that he observed what he described as a "V-shaped" formation of six bright blue and yellowish-white

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orbs leaving the area around Las Vegas, NV, making its way over the border into Arizona. As the object passed overhead he said it was very quiet, making a sound like that of a "rushing wind".

A former police officer from Paulden, AZ reported the second sighting. He left his home at about 8:15 PM, and as he was driving, he spotted a cluster of four reddish-orange lights with a fifth light trailing the other four. There were other sightings around the Prescott area at about 8:15 PM.

Between 8:30 and 8:45 PM were the Phoenix sightings. Probably the most interesting involves a truck driver who was hauling cement from Glendale who noticed a bright object in the sky. When he pulled his truck over to take a better look, he saw two aircraft fly from Luke Air Force Base to approach the strange object, which then vanished. There were other accounts of military aircraft tracking the objects all the way to Tucson. Luke A.F.B. denies that they tracked anything that evening, and that in fact the base is purely a training facility and its aircraft would never have been called for such a purpose.

One group of witnesses reported that they saw a huge "wedge-shaped" craft with five lights on its surface. Another group of witnesses saw an object "shaped somewhat like a sergeant's stripes" come over Camelback Mountain near downtown Phoenix. It apparently stopped directly above them, at the intersection of 7th Avenue and Indian School Road, where it hovered for about 5 minutes. It stayed so steady that they reported they could see panels on a definite surface that blocked a large portion of the sky above them.

The object then flew to the area around Sky Harbor Airport, between Phoenix and Tempe, where two air traffic controllers in their tower, and several pilots on the ground and on approach, observed it as well, saying they saw absolutely nothing on their radar. Other sightings were made in the same time period in Scottsdale, Glendale, and Gilbert.

This was either one fast, large object, or there were perhaps a few on parallel paths. Some reports seem to conflict, but the sightings all agree that the object was swift and enormous. Conservative estimates of the size are on the order of at least three football fields wide. Depending on their proximity to the witnesses, some estimates ranged up to 2 miles wide, based on the city block over which it stretched.

Between 8:45 and 9:00 PM, other sightings were reported by witnesses traveling the stretch of Interstate 10 that runs from Phoenix to Tucson. One family that was driving from Tucson north to Phoenix reported that they could easily see each "wing tip" of the object from either side of their vehicle. As they continued to drive in the opposite direction of the object, they claimed that they



Amateur video footage of the Phoenix Lights as ran by KSAZ Fox 10

were underneath it for roughly two minutes, at a clip of about 80 M.P.H.

So from even the roughest estimates, the formation traveled from Henderson, Nevada to Tucson, Arizona within an hour's time. As the crow flies, that's 354 miles (or 308 nautical miles) in less than an hour. That's one fast crow!

This is just a sampling of the many reports that were received that night, and all of these happened before the lights that appeared over Phoenix that were captured on videotape at about 10 PM. So, with all of these witnesses' reports, and videotaped recordings, has there ever been any explanations offered for what happened?

Whether you believe in UFOs, alien visitations, and conspiracies or not there were a few attempts to prove that the Phoenix Lights either were or were not extraterrestrial in nature. In June, a reporter from NBC affiliate KPNX-TV filmed a drop of flares by military aircraft, above an Air Force range southwest of Phoenix. These flares were caught on video and looked very much like the same mysterious orbs that appeared at 10 PM on March 13th. They declared that they had solved the mystery.

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Not long after that story broke, the Maryland Air National Guard, which was training in Arizona for the winter, announced that they had a squad of A-10 fighters that flew over the gunnery range and had dropped those flares. The Arizona National guard determined that those flares were indeed dropped at 10 PM at an altitude of 15,000 feet. Even with this declaration by the military explaining the 10 PM Phoenix Lights caught on video, they also declared that the A-10s did not proceed north of Phoenix and therefore could not have been the formation that was seen in the Phoenix area around 8:30 PM.

Most people are never satisfied by the military's explanations, finding them too convenient and supporting their conspiracy theories. The nature of the government being able to hide some secrets and release others at will only supports their beliefs. However, one group of witnesses took their video of both the "Phoenix Lights" and the "June Flares" to a video lab for analysis. Jim Diletosso's company, Village Labs of Tempe, did the analysis and concluded that not only were the lights in the different videos not the same type of light, but that the Phoenix Lights were not flares, planes, or anything else man-made.

This declaration became much hyped as well; I mean this would become proof of an extraterrestrial presence over Phoenix! Newspapers and television, and even a Discovery channel special about UFOs touted Diletosso's discovery. However, the kind of optical analysis he claimed to have done is comparable to spectral analysis. He explained that a video recorder could capture all the minute details of a source of light, and that his computers could break down and analyze that source, creating a graph.

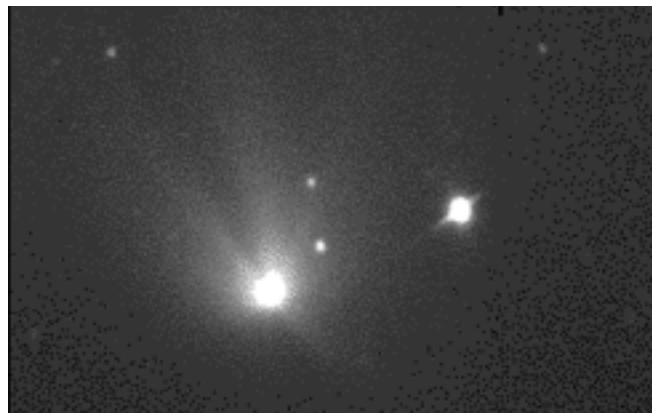
However, as the Phoenix New Times very accurately described the physics of how a video camera works, this amount of detail just isn't possible. All Diletosso could do is compare the color histogram, or breakdown of red, green and blue components of the pixels, that make up the picture of the light source. In fact, when the New Times reporter asked Diletosso to reproduce his analysis, he was unable to do so and became defensive and touted



The path of the Phoenix Lights

scientifically impossible theories.

But we all love scientifically impossible theories, don't we? That's why it's called *science fiction*, that realm of writing genre that applies the technical jargon and speculative theory about everything to create scenarios that are literally out of this world. So many people want to believe in UFOs, and some people want to discount them. So in the end, there really is still no final say over what appeared over Phoenix five years ago. All that is known is that there was something in the sky that night, and it wasn't just the bright comet Hale-Bopp.



The Hale-Bopp comet and it's curious "companion" artifact/star

Photo taken by amateur astronomer Chuck Shramek

Interestingly enough, I have more to tell about Hale-Bopp. Call it a coincidence, or call it a revelation. Literally. Revelations 8:10-11 describes a rock which would fall from the heavens, named Wormwood (or "bitterness"), after the seven seals were opened, bringing about the destruction of the Earth. Sure, there were lots of millennium prophecies, and based on interpretation they either haven't come true, or just are a prelude to more. But one group of people believed their charismatic leader so much, that Hale-Bopp was a sign of the end of the world, that they all committed suicide.

You know who I'm talking about, right? The Nike-wearing members of the "Heaven's Gate" cult, including their leader, Marshall Applewhite, committed suicide in a rented mansion in San Diego, California. They not only believed that Hale-Bopp was a harbinger of destruction, like Wormwood, but they latched on to a story of an anomalous photograph of Hale-Bopp that showed a "companion" object with the comet. They believed this companion was a spaceship that was coming to take them home. On March 22, 1997, comet Hale-Bopp was the closest it would get to the Earth on its approach to swing around the sun. On March 23, 1997, there was a lunar eclipse, which made viewing Hale-Bopp especially brilliant.

To some, it was a sign. Do you remember, "The moon shall become as black as sack-cloth"? On March

27, 1997, Marshall Applewhite lead 38 members of his "Heaven's Gate" cult to commit suicide. They may have chosen San Diego to commence their exit from this world, but did you know that Applewhite and his cult were based in Phoenix, Arizona? Shocking coincidence to say the least. Did Applewhite believe that the object that visited Phoenix two weeks before was the "companion" ship? We may never know.

By the way, the Hale-Bopp comet got its unusual name from the two men who simultaneously made the discovery of it. Officially named "C/1995 O1", for when it was discovered, in June 1995. Alan Hale, Ph.D., a professional astronomer from New Mexico called in the first discovery. Moments later, Thomas Bopp, an amateur astronomer made the same discovery while at a star-gazing party with friends 90 miles away from the lights of the city; not all that far from the suburb of Phoenix, Arizona that he calls home.

Gotta love coincidences.



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GothCon: Beating a dead horse Continued from Page 9

The journals and forums will surely pick up again, the accusations will fly anew, and the drama may never die; such is the nature of undead things. If it does continue, it will all be party to beating a dead horse.

As a side note, I did finally hear from Sarah. She never responded to the email I sent to her on August 2nd. That email was the same that I sent to everyone whose email address was linked to the GothCon site, and was also the same that I sent to the Inquisition founders. I heard from everyone I sent that mail to except for her. I had heard from those close to her that she was unable to get to a computer, but that my questions would be given to her as a printout. In my final draft of the article that was published in Acrimony, however, I stated that I was unable to reach her for comment.

Funny, September 3rd, shortly after the issue was published, I received an email from Sarah. She claimed she never received my email and accused me of failing to get all of the facts. I would like to take this moment to again say I'm sorry to hear that she did not receive my initial request for an interview, nor my follow-up of questions that were given to her and her associate. I responded to her email with my apologies and asked her if she had any comments or would accept a proper interview. She has yet to respond. For the record, I invite her again publicly to please feel free to write to me if she wishes to finally set the facts straight; about anything written in my article or this follow-up, specifically about why the event was inevitably cancelled.

As the founders of the Inquisition can attest, my initial draft was written before hearing from them as well. When I wrote to them letting them know I was running out of time, they contacted me, I made myself available by phone, and included their say in the article's final draft which was rushed to the Editor. I made the same declaration to Sarah's friend. To date, I am still waiting to hear back from Sarah. Then again, perhaps by now, even she is tired of beating this dead horse.



Creepy Eerie Places



by **Atreyana Star**
star@acrimony.org

We have all seen them, vast lands scattered with abandoned buildings. Their funding has been cut and their doors closed. Depending upon how long they have remained in a state of disrepair determines the condition of the building. Many of these facilities, to the naked eye, now seem to resemble the creepy old rundown buildings of Hollywood film sets. But to those of us with an eye for the paranormal, the mishaps that have occurred between those walls breed the settings for a ghostly adventure. For that reason, abandoned eerie places like Waltham Metropolitan State Mental Hospital in Waltham, Massachusetts have attracted cultists, paranormal investigators, and curious teenagers alike. I once lived only a few miles from one of these facilities and tried hard to resist the temptation to cross the no trespassing signs that fence off the property.

Waltham Metropolitan State Mental Hospital or Met State as locals refer to it has become known as one of the most haunted places in Massachusetts. This year marks 11 years since Met State has closed. During its operation and in the years since, people have reported hearing voices, seeing apparitions, and finding blood spattered on the walls. The approximate 400 acre grounds are home to some 40 buildings that house different wards, many of which are connected with underground tunnels. The tunnels themselves were even used in movies such as *Girl Interrupted*. The buildings range in age, the oldest dating back to 1927, just 6 years before the hospital itself was opened. There are two separate hospitals on the grounds: the main hospital and the Gaebler Children's Hospital.

The terrible patient conditions can only contribute to the feeling of fear associated with this place. In 1990 the horrible treatment of patients was finally made known to the public. Here is an excerpt from an article in a March 1991 edition of the Boston Globe:



Underground tunnels used to travel between buildings at Metropolitan State Hospital, also used in the filming of "Girl Interrupted".

Michael Bogosian, a 32-year-old supervisory investigator for the department, recalled a case in which one patient was discovered to have mysterious burn marks around his mouth.

"The first clue came from a nursing supervisor," Bogosian explained. "When she raised her hand to smooth her hair, the patient shrank back into a corner in a show of dread." Other patients in the unit exhibited similar reactions.

Investigators learned that two patients in the unit suffered from an illness that compelled them to eat cigarettes. From interviews with reluctant staff members, Bogosian learned that several staff workers would throw lighted cigarettes on the floor and watch the patients leap to swallow them.

The investigation revealed that some half-dozen staff members were also involved in punching and kicking the patients, while another half-dozen knew about the abuse but failed to report it.

In another case, a mental health worker forced a blind patient to strip and painted a swastika on his buttocks.

In the most recent highly publicized case of patient abuse, investigators spent about seven months and interviewed more than 100 people to find out who was involved in a pattern of sexual abuse of female patients at Metropolitan State Hospital. In November, department officials announced the firing of four hospital workers in connection with the sexual abuse of five female patients. The department also disciplined 31 other staff members for failing to report their knowledge or suspicions about sexual abuse at the facility.

There have also been a multitude of suicides and even a murder on the property. In 1978 Ann Marie Davee, a patient of the facility, was murdered by a co-patient Melvin Wilson. Soon after her disappearance, hospital staff found another patient in possession of seven of Miss Davee's teeth, giving the hospital the nickname of "The Hospital of Seven Teeth". Miss Davee's fate remained a mystery until her dismembered body was found two years later, buried in "three or four holes", said Kenneth Wayne, an attorney general's spokesman.



Outside of the Pathology building at Metropolitan State Hospital

Currently, the hospital encounters hundreds of attempted trespassers a month and is patrolled by security officials. Security officer Brandon Leach states, "I have been offered money, drugs, alcohol and sexual favors just to allow people access to the hospital grounds." These attempts are worth it just to experience the strange happenings that plague the Met State. Brandon tells of his experiences with the hospital both as a security guard and as a child. "I don't enter the buildings often but when I have, I have heard footsteps on the stairs in the Children's building when no one was there but me. The radios often send out large squawks and when the other guard is asked if they had said anything they respond wondering what you are talking about. I continually have the feeling of



The cadaver holding cells inside the morgue at Metropolitan State Hospital

being watched. There is a general uneasiness surrounding the whole grounds." Brandon also has seen a group of cultists on the property. "There are about 25 of them. We would see them and they would be heading toward the morgue. We can't do anything ourselves, so we called the local police. We found where the group was last seen and could hear their voices. The police reluctantly entered the morgue with us. We continued hearing the voices but could not find the group. The morgue is the one section of the property that is not connected to the tunnels so we knew that they weren't in them. We searched the building twice over and still could not find the source of the voices. The police quickly left. They don't like to come to the hospital grounds. Even they are freaked out by it." Most recently Brandon and the other security officers have found an alter, the surroundings of which seem to be stained in blood. When an officer upturned the alter and its surroundings, the owners of the alter returned to fix the area up. They also seem to have an axe that they used to hack into the doors and walls surrounding their "sacred" area.

All in all the Metropolitan State Mental Hospital, with its furtive history and exciting happenings, certainly isn't a happy place. I for one wouldn't want to work there night after night and I commend those that put up with the harassment from visitors alive and dead.



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Herbal Medicine



by **Scarlett Crawford**
scarlett@acrimony.org

Herbal medicine has been used as far back as records were kept to aid in the healing of illness. Even if you don't believe in the healing power of herbs, I'll bet that you have ten to fifteen medicinal herbs in your house right now. All culinary herbs and spices are medicinal. In fact, to our ancient ancestors, their flavor enhancement properties were incidental to their primary uses: food preservation and medicine. We have depended on plants since the beginning of time both as a food source and a remedy to what ails us.

From the ancient times and sadly, even into the present day, while male physicians doctored the rich and royal and wrote all of the classic texts, herbalists, generally women, took care of everyone else. Women healers have been known by many names: midwives, wise women, green women, witch, old wives, and nurses. That prejudice still abounds today. Just ask your medical doctor if he thinks peppermint will calm an upset stomach. Physicians and researchers dismiss herbal medical wisdom as "old wives' tales." But if you dare to try out these tales, you will find why they have remained a part of our spoken heritage for so long. They work.

Society's viewpoint of herbal medicine has changed greatly over the years, from the down swing of seeing herbal medicine as total fakery to the up swing we are currently in of viewing herbalism as having a cure for every ailment. In most shopping centers you will find a herbal/health food store. At your local grocery store, at the convenience market you frequent, even on eBay; herbs are all around us, as is the pervasive general knowledge of what simple remedies herbs can offer. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 4 billion people, 80 percent of the world population, presently use herbal medicine for some aspect of primary healthcare.

Here are some basic herbs and their uses:

Lavender: Relaxes the central nervous system. Contains antibacterial properties. Historically used by Romans in the laundry.

Garlic: Antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, and hypotensive (lowers blood pressure) properties. Lowers cholesterol and fat in the bloodstream.

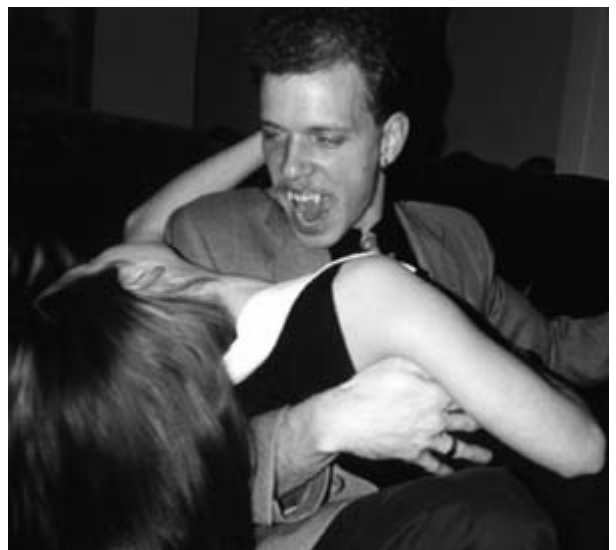
Aloe Vera: Internally this is an excellent laxative. Externally an unsurpassed healer of broken skin.

Continued on page 23

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Ask Scarlett!



by **Scarlett Crawford**
scarlett@acrimony.org

Dear Scarlett,

A Long time ago I slept with a married man who was part of my social circle. His wife was told by him about the indiscretion and she forgave him. Recently I met her, he was not present, and there was such anger towards me. I tried everything to be nice to her. What do I do if I have to see her again?

Dear Twice Scorned,

Did you really think she would want to be your new best friend? Her husband was willing to take the chance of ending his marriage just to have you. This tells her that he chose you over her. This realization could not have been emotionally comforting at the time she found out about it, nor is that something that will ever feel good.

She forgave him, because if she didn't, it would mean the end of her marriage. You on the other hand, are another matter. Why would she forgive you? What is in it for her to forgive you? Nothing, therefore she probably never will.

If you will be seeing her again, I would not expect anything to be different. She will always view you as his dream girl, the girl that was more desirable than her. If you see her again I would suggest being respectfully aloof. Give her a wide berth, if for no other reason than upon your meeting, she didn't smack you down in the manner that I am sure she wanted to.

Dear Scarlett,

What would you do if your husband was continually verbally (not physically) abusive to your children?

Dear Mistreated Mommy,

The key here is the identification of abuse. The style of abuse does not matter. Oftentimes words hurt for much longer amounts of time than fists.

If you feel that abuse is occurring, you need to remove your children from that situation. If you do not, in most states, you are viewed as an accessory to criminal child abuse. When a man crosses the line of abuse it does not often remain directed at one person. If he is abusing your children, my bet is that he is abusing you as well. Have you shown him the results of his actions? My advice to you is to turn to a mutually trusted friend, and confront him with his actions and the resulting ramifications of those actions. This might sink in that it isn't his wife nagging him again, but two people both telling him the error of his ways. If he refuses to see what he is doing, or if he acknowledges it but refuses to change, I strongly urge that you leave.

Dear Scarlett,

What are your qualifications to answer any question?

Dear Questioning Querant,

I have no credentials that hang on my wall, nor do I have any letters that follow my name. I am simply a woman who has learned through trial and error how to minimize my exposure to life's cruelties. I am a biological mother to three children, yet I have mothered many. I have been married twice, divorced once. My ex-husband is one of my best friends, so I must have done something right. I have managed never to have been in trouble with the law, nor have I lost the sense of who I am to anyone or anything. My mom is my best friend and now that I am older I value her advice greatly. My husband and I have known each other for almost 14 years and for better and worse, remain married and work through some really tough situations. We still have that feeling of urgency upon seeing each other for the first time that day to be in one another's arms and yet the sense of security that allows us to withstand the long separations that his naval career entails. So, am I a therapist? No. Am I psychologist? No. I am just a person who enjoys helping people be the best that they can and I am not afraid to tell them how it is in very direct words. We all need a good solid kick in the ass from time to time. Even I do and trust me, when I do, Mom calls.



Scarlett's column is run exclusively in Acrimony. Email your question to her at scarlett@acrimony.org

Meditation

The God Sound



by **CT Thompson**
ctthompson@acrimony.org

The God Sound is a little known but highly effective meditation technique. It can be done anytime, anywhere, and requires no preparation. The discipline takes only a few minutes to be successful.

The sound itself sounds like a short "a" (AH). This is a very powerful sound and it is found in all words of power. God, Jehovah, Allah, and Buddha are just a few examples of the God Sound. The God Sound should not

Heaven or Hell? It's Your Choice...

Heaven or Hell...it's your choice is a new ebook describing the probable impact technology will have on both society and the global economy. It is free to download and only if you like what you read will you be asked to pay.



<http://ad5.acrimony.org>

be confused with the mystical chant *OHM*, which is very different.

This meditation technique can be done at anytime. It is very useful as a calming practice. Your eyes can be open or closed, although you will probably prefer to close them if you can. Clear your mind and take a deep breath. On your exhale voice a long drawn out *AH*. You will feel the vibrations resonate deeply throughout your body. When you are out of breath inhale again deeply and repeat the process.

It only takes three or four repetitions in order to feel the deep calm that follows this discipline. It is a good prelude to a deeper meditation practice. If someone throws you off balance and you feel anger growing inside of you take a few moments and try this technique. You will find it is far more effective than counting to ten.

In addition to calm the God Sound is also good at aligning your psychic energies. A few moments of this practice and you will charge your intuition and insights. Performing it before sleep focuses the mind and precognitive dreams may be the result.

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:8-9



Herbal Medicine Continued from Page 20

Thyme: Powerful antiseptic herb and also is anti-spasmodic and an astringent. Makes a nice face rinse.

Rosemary: Strong antioxidant, used to treat headaches and stomach upset. Do NOT take if pregnant, most likely will cause miscarriage.

Echinacea: Strengthens immune system. The leaf and root have antibacterial and antiviral properties. Also used for wound healing.

Clove: An aphrodisiac. Also has antiseptic and anti-emetic (anti-nausea) properties. A powerful pain-reliever. Historically used as a meat preservative.

Red Raspberry: Strengthens the tissue of the uterus in preparation for labor where it will assist contractions. Additionally tones all female organs.

The future of herbal medicine is unclear. Under current Food and Drug Administration regulations, herbal medicines inhabit a regulatory limbo. They are classified as "dietary supplements," and therefore not regulated, but many people think they should be regulated at least as over-the-counter-drugs. Herbs are among the lowest risk treatments in the world. When released to general populations, herbal treatments for particular diseases have been shown to be both safer and more effective than their chemically produced pharmaceutical counterparts. Regardless of the legal entanglements, herbal medicine is here to stay. According to a national telephone survey conducted by Prevention Magazine, herbal alternatives have become mainstream. The survey showed that one third of the nation's adults (32 percent) spent an average of \$54 per year on herbal remedies to treat more common health conditions. That's almost 60 million people who rely on herbs and herbal medicine to ease their diseases. Even the doctors are jumping onto the bandwagon. Harvard, Stanton, and John-Hopkins, all world-renowned medical schools, now offer classes that teach the basis of herbal medicine. It seems that what was old is new once again.



Acrimony is undergoing a makeover. Look for major changes and a new look next month!



Bronze Sculpture of "Caduceus" by James N. Muir, 1997

This sculpture stands outside the Healthcare Shea Hospital in Scottsdale, Arizona. The second installation of twelve, it stands 12 feet high and has a 9 foot wingspan.

The typical view of a caduceus is a winged staff entwined by two serpents, but here the statue depicts an Angel of healing, a patron saint for doctors with many different symbols of healing throughout.

Photograph taken by Dan Shaurette

Cosmic Events

November 1st Samhain, Festival of the Dead, Nos Cyn Calan Gauaf, Third Station of the Year, Tara, Kalends of November

Today is Samhain, the joining of summer to winter. The word Samhain is from the Gaelic 'sam fuin', for 'end of summer', The Celtic goddess Cailleach is said to strike the ground with a hammer on this day, rendering it hard and cold until the time of Imbolc.

The spirits of departed ancestors are free to return to speak with the living at this time. This day is called 'Nos Cyn Calan Gauaf' in Welsh.

November 2nd Second Day of Isia, All Souls Day

This day is celebrated as All Souls Day in some parts of England by placing offerings of food out for the spirits of the dead.

November 3rd Final Day of Isis

This is the final day of the Egyptian festival for the goddess Isis.

Today is traditionally the day for bringing cattle down from the hills in preparation for winter.

November 4th Lord of Death, Mischief Night

In medieval England, this night was a pagan festival to propitiate the spirit of death. Remnants of this observance remain in some parts of England as Mischief Night.

November 5th Nones of November, Guy Fawkes Night

Tonight is a night for burning the effigies of bad spirits of the old year, to clear the path to the new year.

Guy Fawkes Night remembers the unsuccessful plot to blow up James I of England and the British parliament on this day in 1605. It's celebrated in Britain by the lighting of bonfires.

November 6th Birth of Tiamat

The birth of the Babylonian goddess Tiamat, the dragon mother, takes place on this day. Tiamat is the mother of all the gods and the creator of the universe in Babylonian mythology.

November 7th Night of Hecate

The celebration of the Night of Hecate took place on the evening of this day in ancient Greece, culminating in the lighting of bonfires.

November 8th Mania, Gwynn ap Nudd

Mania, the Roman festival for the spirits of the netherworld, occurs today.

Today Gwynn ap Nudd, the lord of the faerie world, opens the door to our world. The door is said to be on Glastonbury Tor, in Britain.

November 9th Festival of Helena, Quatuor Coronati

Today is the Roman festival of Helena, the wife of emperor Julian the Blessed.

Today is also the feast of the four crowned martyrs, 'Quatuor Coronati', recognized by freemasons.

November 10th Nincnevin, Martinmas Eve, Festival of Reason, Eve of Old November Day

The Eve of Old November is the pagan Scots festival of Nincnevin, which honors the goddess of the hunt.

During the French revolution, this day was the festival of the goddess of reason.

November 11th Martinmas, Old November Day, Lunantishees, Scottish Quarter Day, Vinalia

Lunantishees is the Irish festival for the spirits who guard blackthorn trees.

This was traditionally the day for hiring fairs.

This is the Scottish Quarter Day, and the day which begins winter in the old European calendar.

The 'Vinalia' was celebrated on this day in Rome, in honor of Bacchus, the god of wine.

November 12th Epulum Jovis in Capitola

A festival honoring Jupiter, Minerva, and Jove was celebrated on this day in Rome.

November 13th Feronia, Runic Half-month of Nyd Begins

Today is the Roman festival honoring Feronia, a goddess of flowers and the pleasures of youth.

The time of Nyd begins the preparations for winter.

November 14th Dubricus, Moccas, Feast of the Musicians

Today is the festival of Dubricus, who is said to have crowned King Arthur.

Today is also sacred to the Celtic pig-goddess, Moccas.

In Druidic traditions today is the Feast of the Musicians, in honor of musicians and bards.

November 16th Hecate Night

Sunset marks the beginning of Hecate Night, when the crone aspect of the three-fold goddess sacred to Wicca is celebrated.

November 18th Ardvi Sura

The Persian goddess Ardvi, the mother of the stars, is honored on this day.

November 20th Praetextatus and Paulina

Today is the festival of Praetextatus and Paulina, custodians of the Eleusinian mysteries.

November 22nd Artemis Calliste, Ydalir

Today is the festival of Artemis Calliste, the patroness of music.

Today is also the day of Ydalir in Norse tradition, the god of archery and skiing.

November 23rd Wayland the Smith

Today is sacred to the Norse god Wayland, the patron of blacksmiths and metal-workers.

Today is the first day of winter in the old Julian calendar.

November 24th Celtic Tree Month of Ngetal Ends.

November 25th Festival of Persephone, Proserpina, Kore, Catherine and Arianrod, Women's Merrymaking Day, Celtic Tree Month of Ruis Begins

Today is the festival of the goddess of the netherworld, who presides over the spirits of the dead.

Today also celebrates women's mysteries.

November 27th Goddess Month of Cailleach Ends

November 28th Runic Half-month of Is Begins, Goddess Month of Astraea Begins

The month of Is represents ice, a time of enforced rest and the cessation of movement and growth.

Astraea is the Greek goddess of justice.

November 29th Festival of the Sons of Saturn

Today is a Roman festival for Jupiter, Neptune, and Pluto.

November 30th Festival of Andros

Today is the Roman festival of Andros, the personification of manhood and virility.

Calendar

**Autumn Meet 2003: A gathering of Pagans
November 5th through 9th 2003
Tampa, Florida, USA**

5 days of camping, festival, workshops, networking, ritual, drumming, and family.

Featured Guests include Trish Telesco, Nybor, Maya Heath, Ivo Dominguez Jr, Jim Looman, and a wonderful new friend, Dorothy Morrison. Our Featured Musicians will include DeLuna, DreamTrybe and Emerald Rose. We are looking forward to a wonderful and exciting fall festival.

Contact: Wade Berlin
Phone: (904) 396 - 9637
<http://www.phoenixfestivals.com>

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**Screamfest 2003
November 8th and 9th 2003
Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA**

Come and celebrate the ultimate horror event with others. It will be a great weekend with celebrity guests, movies, collectibles, and more!

<http://www.screamfest2003.com>
Price: \$15 one day pass / \$20 two day pass

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**Dragon Fest
November 16th 2003
Glendale, California, USA**

This unique event is the original gathering of Hollywood celebrities, Martial Arts masters, Sci-Fi stars and models donating their time to meet their fans. Each year Dragonfest draws in 1000's of fans and spectators to view an awesome display of celebrities, demonstrations, and entertainment for this one day event.

(800) 332 - 3330 ext 112
<http://www.dragonfest.com>
Price: \$15

**First Annual YuleFest
Presented by Sister Spirit
November 22nd and 23rd 2003
Washington County Fairground's Main Hall
Hillsboro, Oregon**

From the creators of PaganFaire XIII comes an all new event. The First Annual YuleFest!

Come "Walk in a Wiccan Wonderland" at this traditional Pagan Yuletide Celebration at the more spacious Washington County Fairground's Main Exhibit Hall Saturday, November 22 10am-6pm and Sunday November 23 11am-5pm.

(503) 736 - 3297
<http://www.paganfaire.com>
<http://teleport.com/~sistersp>
Price: \$5 to \$10

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**Cyberfetish
at Vatikan, 1032 Queen St. West
December 5th 2003
Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

First Friday of every month. Fetish and music.

Info: djdarq@djdarq.com
Price: \$5

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**Toward a Deeper Meditation
Eastern & Western Methods & Concepts
December 6th 2003 8am
Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA**

Learn deep meditation techniques by expert John Van Auken. You will enter a semi-hypnotic state where you will awaken your individuality, soul, and higher mind. At conclusion, you will move into contact with the Infinite Consciousness.

http://www.edgarcayce.org/conferences/hq_va_beach.html
Price: \$49 Members / \$59 non-Members

Horoscopes

by **Michael Ramses**



ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Break loose of your constraints and push forward in all of your endeavors. A long lasting Trine alignment between Aries' ruling planet Mars and the smaller giant Saturn make

this a very favorable month for Aries to succeed in business and personal affairs. A slight word of caution, Mercury and Mars come into a Square alignment late in the month and this will challenge your communication skills.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Taurus must be careful not to leap too far this month. If you overreach you will be likely to fall. Take small steps towards any goals and you should be fine. The need for caution is

due to the fact that any changes made will be lasting, so care must be taken to assure any change made is positive and not negative. If you remain focused and steadfast you will be fine. Don't get distracted.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): This is an interesting month for Gemini. There are multiple planetary alignments. The month begins with a Sextile alignment between Gemini's ruling planet of Mercury and the

giant Jupiter. This will bring an opportunity for gain and growth. The middle of November brings a Square alignment between Mercury and Neptune. This will bring a negative impact upon your spiritualism, intuition, and psychic abilities. The end of November wraps up with a Conjunction alignment between Mercury and Pluto. This positive alignment will give the Twins the power necessary to crest the mountain and complete what needs to be done.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): The forward-thinking Crab senses the oncoming holidays and makes preparations for what is to come. This time of year is always the hardest on Cancer, as he or she is more

prone to live in the past versus the present. Family ties strengthen and the home is fortified against negativism. If Cancer can overcome the nostalgia the holidays bring, they will be fine.



LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22): This is a very positive month for Leo. A Conjunction between the Sun and Mercury brings clear insight and thinking. Sextile alignments between the Sun, Jupiter, and Neptune present multiple possibilities. Jupiter offers the

opportunity for fortunate gain and growth, while

imagination and intuition flourish under Neptune. Now is the time to go after the brass ring. Trust your instincts.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): The Virgin is the beneficiary of a three-fold Conjunction alignment this month. Mercury is in conjunction with the Sun, Venus, and Pluto. A further Trine alignment with Jupiter offers further positive influence. What this all

means is Virgo has multiple opportunities to succeed in November. Your character will be strong, your intuition influential, and your overall energy potent. Now is the take to make any type of decision, whether in business, family, or romance. It will be hard for you to fail.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): Another tough month for Libra. Are you thinking yet, When is this going to be my year? A Square alignment between Libra's ruling planet Venus and Uranus brings constraint in all

aspects of your life. You are going to feel pinned down. The middle of the month brings a Square alignment between Venus and Mars. This negative alignment will test your ability to control your emotion and anger. The end of the month brings an Opposition of Venus and Saturn. This alignment strengthens your fear of succeeding. Being beaten down the entire month won't help this fear either.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): November is a teeter-totter for the Scorpion. On the one hand you'll experience positive influences over your thinking, communication, and emotional characteristics. On the other

hand you'll feel an inability to act. Don't trust this! Continue with your plans for the future. You're moving in the right direction if you've trusted your instincts this far.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): The usually communicative Sagittarius will feel at a slight loss for words this month. A long lasting Square alignment between Sagittarius' ruling planet Jupiter and Pluto results in change being difficult. Sextile

alignments between the Sun and Saturn offset this negative alignment somewhat. Saturn lends help in overcoming fear while the Sun enhances your overall energy. It's okay to go in new directions.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): This is a very good month for Capricorn. You'll feel good inside most of the month. Your mind will be clear, your emotions balanced, and your energy strong. You can do whatever you put your mind to. This includes sparking new romance if that is what you desire. Take advantage of this prosperous time.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Aquarius needs to take baby steps this month. If you're absolutely intent upon changing your life this month, do so with caution. Multiple Square alignments between your ruling planet Uranus and Venus and the Sun offer many challenges. Your emotions will be unbalanced at times. Artistic ability and creative thinking will also be affected. On the positive side there is a Sextile alignment between Uranus and Mercury late in the month. If you must act, do so in late November. Mercury will come into alignment and balance your mind and offer clearer thinking.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): November brings multiple fortunes to the Fish. A Conjunction between Pisces' ruling planet Neptune and the Sun offers opportunity to enact positive change or reinforce existing actions. Sextile alignments between Neptune and Mercury, Venus, and the Sun further reinforce your positive energy. You have control over all aspects of your being: mental, emotional, and spiritual. Now is the time to do anything you want! If you avoid flights of fancy you'll come out on top!



Michael Ramses has been a horoscope writer for over 12 years. His speciality is personal natal charts. Look for his column right here in Acrimony each month.

<http://www.MichaelRamses.com>

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October Crossword

		F				D					
	G	A	U	N	T	L	E	T			
B	H	I			R	V			C		
R	O	R			O	I			A		
O	S	Y	C		L	L			U		
O	T		A		L	S			L		
M			N			N			D		
			D			I			R		
			Y			G			O		
					S	A	M	H	A	I	N
						C	A	T	S		

October Brain Teaser

Inkstand - "kst" is in the middle. "In" is the beginning, and "and" ends the word.

Personals



Have you found your life mate?

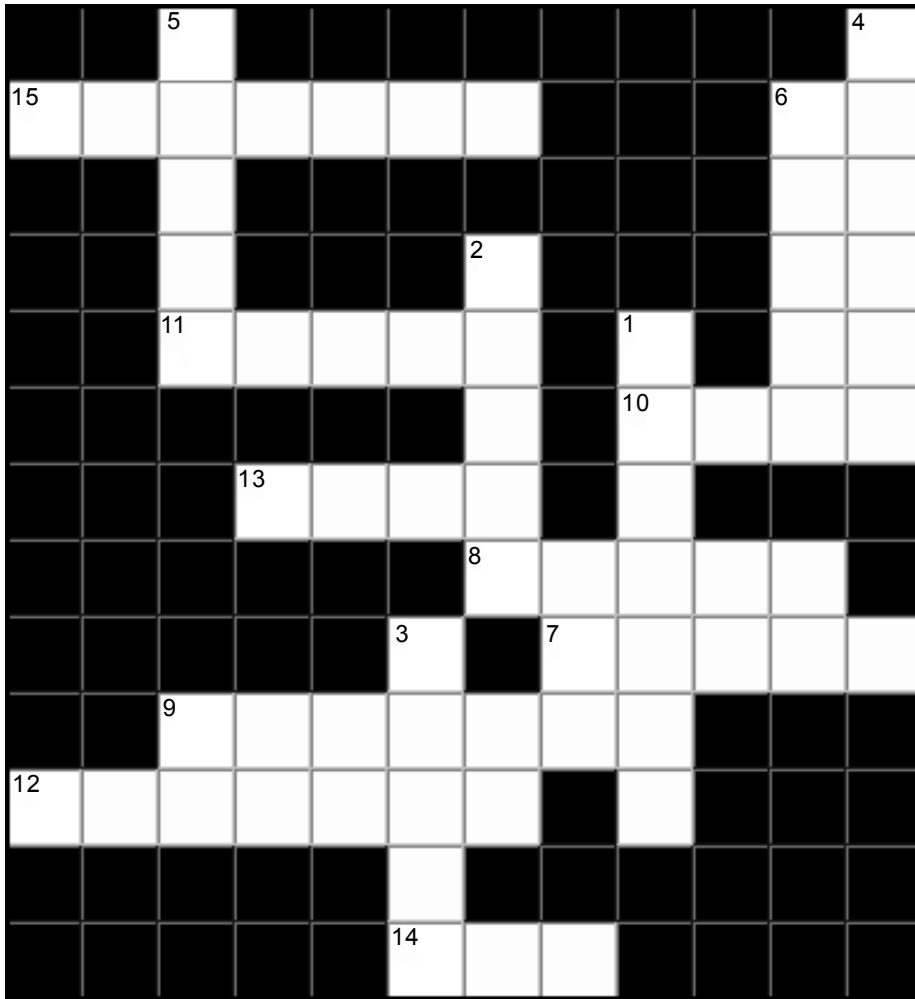
Personal Ads are printed free of charge in Acrimony. Whatever you're looking for, ask for it here.

Full details at <http://www.Acrimony.org>

Click on Personals

www.Acrimony.org

Gothic Crossword



Down

1. A mythical beast with a horn
2. The vampire with a soul
3. Rogue slayer
4. Brain lover
5. Witch transportation
6. Lures sailors to their deaths

Across

7. The Golden _____
8. Underworld werewolf
9. Comedy and Tragedy
10. Love Potion number _____
11. Autumn equinox
12. Strong swimmer without legs
13. The youngest charmed sister
14. Curse
15. An orange full moon

BRAIN TEASER

The sun bakes them, the hand breaks them, the foot treads on them, and the mouth tastes them. What are they?



by Jennie Breeden

jennie@acrimony.org